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			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2617	
DATE MAILED: 01/26/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/844,413

Applicant(s)

EMSLEY ET AL.

Examiner

Joseph G. Ustaris

Art Unit

2617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 November 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 11, 12, 27 and 28 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-10, 13-26, and 29-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This action is in response to the amendment dated 02 November 2005 in application 09/844,413. Claims 1 and 3-38 are pending. Claims 1, 8, 11, 14, 27, 28, 31, and 34 are amended.

The objection to claims 14, 27, and 31 is now withdrawn in view of the amendments.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 13, 19, and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ditzik (US006167376A).

Regarding claim 13, Ditzik discloses a system that an "input port for receiving first information from the network", where the system can receive voice data and hand written data (See Figs. 3 and 4, telephony means 8 and external comm. Means 4; column 6 lines 1-20). The system also has a "signature pad permitting a user to enter handwritten communication for transmission over the network" (See Figs. 3 and 4,

pen/stylus input means 10; column 6 line 63 – column 8 line 30); wherein the telephony means or external comm. means serves as the “port for coupling handwritten communication-related signals to the network” (See Figs. 3 and 4; column 6 line 63 – column 8 line 30).

Regarding claim 19, the system includes “an audio transducer coupled to the computer” that produces sounds in response to an audio signal or “third information received from the computer” (See Fig. 3, speaker means 12 and audio/sound card means 13).

Regarding claim 35, the system includes a “web browser capable of handling Internet communication protocols” (See column 6 lines 40-50).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3-7, 25, 26, 29-34, 36, and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Budinger et al. (US006802032B1) in view of Chappell (US006425132B1).

Regarding claim 1, Budinger et al. (Budinger) discloses an instrument for “testing a CATV network” (See Fig. 1, handheld computer 50A or 50B; column 4 lines 30-35). The computer has “an input port for receiving first information from the network” where

the computer can receive status and error messages from the equipment that are part of the network (See Figs. 1 and 2; column 3 lines 19-35 and column 7 line 61 – column 8 line 5). The handheld computer furthermore has a “user interface” to enter commands (See Fig. 3) and the computer is coupled to the network through a RS-232 port or “a RS-232 port for coupling to the network” (See Figs. 1, 2, and 2B; column 7 lines 8-20). However, Budinger does not disclose creating “second information for communication over the network”.

Chappell discloses a system for testing a CATV system (See Fig. 1). Chappell discloses a mobile field client that is able to connect to the CATV network. The technician is able to test upstream communications by entering data into the field client that will be sent to the headend or “second information for communication over the network”. The results from the message are sent back to the field client in order for the technician to determine the condition of the CATV system (See column 5 line 59 – column 6 line 30). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the handheld computer disclosed by Budinger to perform testing on the reverse path by creating “second information for communication over the network”, as taught by Chappell, in order to increase the testing capabilities of the handheld computer thereby providing the user with more tools to troubleshoot the network with.

Regarding claim 3, “further including an RF section for processing signals received from the CATV network” (See Chappell Fig. 4; column 9 lines 31-40).

Regarding claim 4, "further including an analog-to-digital (A/D) converter, the A/D converter coupled to the RF section for conversion of RF section output into digital RF-related signals" (See Chappell Fig. 4, A/D 206).

Regarding claim 5, "further including a digital signal processor (DSP), the A/D converter coupled to the DSP for processing of the digital RF-related signals", wherein the controller processes the signals (See Chappell Fig. 4, controller 200).

Regarding claim 6, inherently the "first information is first analog information" in order for the (A/D) converter to convert "the first analog information to first digital information" (See Chappell Fig. 4, A/D 206).

Regarding claim 7, the A/D converter is coupled to the controller or "DSP" for processing the first digital information (See Chappell Fig. 4, A/D 206 and controller 200).

Claim 25 contains the limitations of claim 1 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to that claim. Furthermore, the handheld computer also couples to the network through an LAN port or "Ethernet interface" (See Budinger column 3 lines 35-47 and column 7 lines 8-20).

Regarding claim 26, Budinger in view of Chappell does not disclose a "Web browser capable of handling Internet communication protocols".

Official Notice is taken that it is well known for computers to have a "Web browser capable of handling Internet communication protocols". Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the handheld computer disclosed by Budinger in view of Chappell to include a "Web browser capable of handling Internet communication protocols" in order

to increase the capabilities of the handheld computer thereby providing the user with more resources to troubleshoot the network with.

Claim 29 contains the limitations of claims 6 and 25 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to those claims.

Claim 30 contains the limitations of claims 7 and 29 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to those claims.

Claim 31 contains the limitations of claims 3, 6, and 25 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to those claims.

Claim 32 contains the limitations of claims 4 and 31 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to those claims.

Claim 33 contains the limitations of claims 5 and 32 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to those claims.

Claim 34 contains the limitations of claims 1 and 26 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to those claims.

Regarding claim 36, "the input port and output port are RF ports" (See Chappell Fig. 4, 272; column 9 lines 30-40).

Claim 38 contains the limitations of claims 25 and 36 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to those claims.

Claims 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Budinger et al. (US006802032B1) in view of Chappell (US006425132B1) and Chang et al. (US006891803B1).

Claim 8 contains the limitations of claim 1 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to that claim. However, Budinger in view of Chappell does not disclose an "audio transducer coupled to the computer for producing audio signals in response to third information received from the computer".

Chang et al. (Chang) discloses a telecommunications transmission test unit (See Fig. 2). The transmission test unit includes a speaker or "audio transducer" that is coupled to the unit inherently producing a sound or "audio signal" that are in response to audio data or "third information received from the computer" (See Fig. 2, speaker 218; column 5 lines 8-22). Therefore it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the handheld computer disclosed by Budinger in view of Chappell to include an "audio transducer coupled to the computer for producing audio signals in response to third information received from the computer", as taught by Chang, in order to increase the capabilities of the handheld computer thereby allowing different means of communicating information to the user.

Regarding claim 9, Budinger in view of Chappell and in further view of Chang does not disclose a "digital-to-analog (D/A) converter coupled between the computer and the audio transducer for converting the third information into signals to be transduced by the audio transducer".

Official Notice is taken that it is well known to use D/A converters to convert signals that are to be outputted by analog speakers or "audio transducers". Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the handheld computer disclosed by Budinger in view of Chappell

and in further view of Chang to include a "digital-to-analog (D/A) converter coupled between the computer and the audio transducer for converting the third information into signals to be transduced by the audio transducer" in order make the handheld computer more compatible with different analog speakers.

Regarding claim 10, Budinger in view of Chappell and in further view of Chang discloses a controller or "DSP" that would inherently be "coupled to the computer and to the D/A converter for processing third information and for supplying processed third information to the D/A converter" in order to successfully produce sounds from the speaker (See Chappell Fig. 4 and Chang Figs. 2 and 3A).

Claims 14-18, 20, 21 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ditzik (US006167376A) in view of Beriont (US005479202A).

Claim 14 contains the limitations of claim 13 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to that claim. Ditzik does disclose that the computer can communicate in analog network (See Ditzik column 8 lines 1-30). However, Ditzik does not explicitly disclose a "RF section for processing the first information".

Ditzik does disclose that the computer system can be used over a cable television interface (See Ditzik column 7 lines 19-25 and column 8 lines 1-30). Beriont discloses a receiver used within cable television network. Beriont discloses a TV tuner or "RF section for processing the first information" that is able to receive signals and process the signals accordingly (See Fig. 2, TV tuner 24). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify

the computer system disclosed by Ditzik to include a "RF section for processing the first information", as taught by Beriont, in order to increase the capabilities of the computer system thereby providing more services to the user.

Regarding claim 15, "further including an analog-to-digital (A/D) converter, the A/D converter coupled to the RF section for conversion of RF section output into digital RF-related signals" (See Beriont Fig. 2, A/D 25).

Regarding claim 16, "further including a digital signal processor (DSP), the A/D converter coupled to the DSP for processing of the digital RF-related signals" (See Beriont Fig. 2, DSP 28).

Regarding claim 17, inherently the "first information is first analog information" in order for the (A/D) converter to convert "the first analog information to first digital information" (See Beriont Fig. 2, A/D 25).

Regarding claim 18, "further including a digital signal processor (DSP), the A/D converter coupled to the DSP for processing the first digital information" (See Beriont Fig. 2, DSP 28 and A/D 25).

Regarding claim 20, "further including a digital-to-analog (D/A) converter coupled between the computer and the audio transducer for converting the third information into signals to be transduced by the audio transducer" (See Beriont Fig. 2, D/A 29 and Speaker 31).

Regarding claim 21, "further including a digital signal processor (DSP) coupled to the computer and to the D/A converter for processing third information and for supplying

processed third information to the D/A converter" (See Beriont Fig. 2, DSP 28 and D/A 29).

Regarding claim 37, Ditzik in view of Beriont discloses the input port is a RF port (See Beriont Fig. 2, port 21). However, Ditzik does not disclose an RF port as an output port.

Official Notice is taken that 2-way cable television networks are well known, wherein the RF port serves as both the input and output port. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the network disclosed by Ditzik in view of Beriont to be a 2-way cable television network, wherein the RF port serves as both the input and output port, in order to provide a more efficient network thereby requiring less connections at the user's site.

Claims 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ditzik (US006167376A).

Claims 22, 23, and 24 contains the limitations of claim 13 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to that claim. However, Ditzik does not explicitly disclose a "serial port, RS-232 port, or an Ethernet interface".

Official Notice is taken that it is will known for computer systems to have a serial port, RS-232 port, or an Ethernet interface. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the computer system to include at least one serial port, RS-232 port, or an Ethernet

interface in order to increase the capabilities of the computer system thereby making the computer system more compatible with other various units.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 11, 12, 27, and 28 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding claims 11, 12, 27, and 28, the prior art of record fails to show or fairly suggest a signature pad coupled to the serial port or the Ethernet interface permitting transmission of signature pad-related signals over the network.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 02 November 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues with respect to claims 13-19, 20-24, 35, and 37 that Ditzik does not disclose "an instrument for testing a CATV network". However, reading the claims in the broadest sense, Ditzik does meet the limitations of the claims. In response to applicant's arguments, the recitation "An instrument for testing a CATV network, the instrument including" has not been given patentable weight because the recitation occurs in the preamble. A preamble is generally not accorded any patentable weight where it merely recites the purpose of a process or the intended use of a structure, and where the body of the claim does not depend on the preamble for completeness but,

instead, the process steps or structural limitations are able to stand alone. See *In re Hirao*, 535 F.2d 67, 190 USPQ 15 (CCPA 1976) and *Kropa v. Robie*, 187 F.2d 150, 152, 88 USPQ 478, 481 (CCPA 1951).

Applicant further argues with respect to claims 1, 3-10, 25, 26, 29-34, 36 and 38 that Budinger discloses that the handheld computers communicate with the CMTS and the cable modem, not the CATV network. However, reading the claims in the broadest sense, Budinger in view of Chappell does meet the limitations of the claims. The handheld computers connect with the CMTS and cable modem, which are read to be part of the "CATV network". The handheld computers are able to obtain status and error messages regarding the equipment of the "CATV network" as suggested by Budinger (See column 3 lines 19-35).

Applicant also argues with respect to claims 1, 3-10, 25, 26, 29-34, 36 and 38 that Chappell discloses that the modem performs a spectral analysis. However, reading the claims in the broadest sense, Budinger in view of Chappell does meet the limitations of the claims. The field client initiates the tests to be performed at a certain node by entering data to be sent up to the headend or "second information for communication over the network" (See Chappell column 5 line 59 – column 6 line 30).

Applicant further argues with respect to claims 8-10 that Chang discloses that the test set is provided for testing telephone system modems. However, Chang further discloses that the test set can also cover transmission technologies such as hybrid fiber coax (HFC), coaxial cables, and optical fiber. These technologies are notoriously well known to be used in CATV networks.

Applicant is reminded that although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph G. Ustaris whose telephone number is 571-272-7383. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-5PM; Alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher S. Kelley can be reached on 571-272-7331. The fax phone

Art Unit: 2617

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



JGU
January 12, 2006



VIVEK SRIVASTAVA
PRIMARY EXAMINER